



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

News Release

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NEW YORK MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGALLY EXPORTING STOLEN NBC NIGHT VISION LENSES TO IRAN

PHILADELPHIA, PA – Patrick L. Meehan, the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and William Reid, the Special Agent-in-Charge of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Philadelphia, announced that Erik Kyriacou pleaded guilty today in U.S. District Court to all counts of a four-count criminal indictment filed in May 2004.

Specifically, Kyriacou pleaded guilty to two counts of violating the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), Title 50 U.S.C., Section 1701 et seq, by exporting technology without a license, and exporting and attempting to export technology to Iran; one count of interstate transportation of stolen property, in violation of Title 18 U.S.C., Section 2314, and one count of making a false statement, in violation of Title 18, U.S.C., Section 1001 (a).

This case was investigated by the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Wendy Kelly.

According to court papers filed in the case, on or about January 30, 2004, the defendant unlawfully exported from the United States four Astroscope camera lenses, in violation of the laws and regulations controlling such exports, knowing that the lenses were to be shipped to Iran, which is currently under a U.S. embargo. The Astroscope is a night vision device that allows a video camera to capture images clearly in the dark.

Court documents indicate the lenses shipped in foreign commerce were property that had been stolen from NBC News in New York by Kyriacou while he was a part-time employee there.

"These lenses may seem relatively innocuous to the average observer, but in the wrong hands they could help adversaries monitor American troops at night and conduct other surveillance," said ICE Special Agent-in-Charge Reid.

Kyriacou faces a potential sentence of 35 years imprisonment, 3 years of supervised release, and a \$1,000,000 fine. Sentencing is scheduled for May 10, 2005. Kyriacou currently resides in North Babylon, New York.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.